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10 January 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Thoughts on Future Plans for the CIA Historical Program

1. This morning I received from your office a copy of Mr. Colby's 8 December 1972 memorandum for Deputy Directors, Subject: Future Plans for the CIA Historical Program. The memorandum indicates that Mr. Colby "will be discussing this subject with you at an early meeting." Bernie Drell has informed me that the indicated meeting will, in fact, be held on 12 January--this Friday.

2. I submit herewith a few thoughts and suggestions for your consideration in anticipation of your attendance at the 12 January meeting:

a) In my opinion the catching-up phase of the Historical Program within the DDI has been making satisfactory progress. The program is presently proceeding at about the proper level of effort in relation to the stage at which we now find ourselves. Completion of the catching-up phase is indeed within sight and should require progressively smaller inputs of DDI manpower over the next several months.

b) I feel that Mr. Colby's idea of developing for the future a smaller, more compact program that will emphasize the history of specific Agency activities and involvements rather than the history of individual organizational units is eminently sound. It should result in the production of histories that are more interesting, less bureaucratically parochial, and generally more useful than many of the organizational unit histories produced in the past.

c) Similarly, I feel that the proposal to make greater use of Historical Staff personnel as writers --with concomitant reduction in personnel drain on the directorates and decreasing dependence on contract annuitants as authors--is to be applauded. Since many of the "activity histories" will inevitably

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cut across directorate lines, use of professional historians from the Historical Staff as authors should result in finished histories that are more objective and less likely to reflect parochial bias.

d) With respect to Mr. Colby's invitation to suggest topics for proposed treatment under the new program, you may wish to consider suggesting the following:

- 1) CIA Support for the Narcotics Control Program
- 2) CIA and President Nixon's Trip to the USSR
- 3) The Provision of Unclassified CIA Issuances to the Academic World and the Public in General

  
Chairman, DDI Historical Board

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